only 89.82 kg/ha. This level of consumption is not considered high for declining the fertility of the land. However, the Government is advocating "Integrated Nutrient Management" (INM) by promoting soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures, bio-fertilizers, Green Manure, Farm Yard Manure, compost, vermicompost etc.

The Government is also promoting organic farming by using organic inputs for plant nutrients.

Alternatives to tobacco cultivation

†1853. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco cultivation has been affected due to the ban imposed on the advertisements of tobacco products;

(b) if so, whether any suggestion has been given by the Ministry to tobacco cultivators for alternative cultivation; and

(c) whether any research has been undertaken for suggesting alternative cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is undertaking research and development work on alternate crops to tobacco. Several alternate crops and cropping systems have been developed and recommended by the ICAR for tobacco growing areas in different agro-climatic zones of the country.

Customs Duty on raw-materials for irrigation system

1854. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken or proposed to be taken regarding exemption of customs duty on raw materials to be imported for manufacture of micro-irrigation system sold in Andhra Pradesh to make it more affordable for an ordinary farmers to utilize this system, specially when the ground water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.